

WEST ST. MARY PARISH PORT, HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

JULY 7, 2015

6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ralph Longman , President of the Port Commission. Mr. Joseph Tabb led in the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call resulted in the following:

Present:

Ralph Longman
Willie Peters
Wayne Stevens
Tad Blevins
Greg Paul
Will Terry
Joseph Tabb

Absent:

Calvin Deshotel
Phil Bell

Also present at the meeting were Ms. Marguerite Robinson of Teche Talk, Mr. Roger Stouff of the Franklin Banner, Mr. Samuel B Gabb of PS&N Law Firm, Mr. Eric Duplantis, Port Attorney, Mr. David Allain, Executive Director and Ms. Donna Louviere, Secretary of the Port Commission.

A motion was made by Mr. Joseph Tabb to dispense with the reading of the June 2, 2015 meeting minutes and to accept the same. The motion was seconded by Mr. Will Terry and carried unanimously.

Mr. Longman asked for any public comment - there was none.

Mr. Allain referred the next item on the Agenda regarding going into Executive Session to Mr. Duplantis, the Port Commission's Legal Counsel. Mr. Duplantis explained that the Port Commissioners are required to go into Executive Session to receive oral report from counsel, discuss below noted matter and act, if necessary, in the matter styled: In Re: Oil Spill by the Oil Rig "Deep Water Horizon", Bearing docket number 2179, Section J, United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana. Said session held pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 42.17 that, in pertinent part, reads as follows:

A. A public body may hold an executive session pursuant to R.S. 42.16 for one or more of the following reason: (2) Strategy sessions or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining, prospective litigation after formal written demand, or litigation when an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body. In open session, after executive session: Authorize Board Chairman or Executive Director to execute any documents necessary to resolve matters discussed in Executive Session re: BP Oil Spill.

Mr. Duplantis explained that because of an existing Federal Court order we will not be able to disclose the amount and the terms of the settlement. Mr. Duplantis then asked for a motion to go into Executive Session.

A motion was made by Mr. Tabb to go into Executive Session regarding BP Litigation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peters and carried unanimously.

Mr. Allain asked everyone not involved in the Executive Session to please wait in his office. Mr. Allain then instructed that all recorders be turned off while in Executive Session.

Upon everyone returning to the Board Meeting Room, Mr. Longman asked for a motion to go back into regular session. A motion was made by Mr. Terry to go back into regular session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Paul and carried unanimously.

Mr. Duplantis noted that it is the recommendation of the Commission to accept the settlement and because of the existing Court Order the dollar amount cannot be disclosed at this time. He said that when the Court Order has been lifted, the dollar amount may be made public. Mr. Duplantis then asked for a motion and a second to allow Mr. Allain, Executive Director to execute a release document to settle this claim on behalf of the West St. Mary Parish Port Harbor & Terminal District. A motion was made by Mr. Paul authorizing Mr. Allain to sign all necessary documents pertaining to the BP Settlement Agreement. A motion was seconded by Mr. Peters and carried with Mr. Tabb abstaining from the vote.

Mr. Allain thanked Mr. Gabb for attending the meeting, then proceeded with the Director's report. Mr. Allain reported on the Budget at hand one being the Budget adjustment the other being the original Budget. Mr. Allain recommended the following budget adjustments;

A decrease in Engineering by \$15,000.00, an increase in Health/Life/Disability by \$6,000.00 to cover the increase in premiums. An increase in Internet/Web Page by \$5,200.00, an increase in Capital Improvements by \$264,000.00 to cover cost for Maintenance Dredging and Aids to Navigation Projects previously approved by the Commission. Mr. Allain explained that the original Budget was adjusted for the DRA Grant to reflect the 2015 balance. - Discussion followed. Mr. Allain also reported on the holdings for the Port Commission: \$2,904,000 with \$235,350.00 of that being in checking. Those holdings are with Capital One, Whitney, & Iberia Banks and LAMPCO, which is a state agency. Mr. Allain stated on the income side of the DRA Grant \$140,248.00 we adjusted it to reflect where we are at today. Mr. Peters asked if we have any plans to expand the Water Plant Distribution, - Discussion followed. A motion was made by Mr. Paul to accept the recommendations to adjust the Budget.. A motion was seconded by Mr. Stevens and carried unanimously.

Mr. Allain reported that the Audit Report has been cleared and accepted by the State of Louisiana Legislative Auditors. Acceptance of the audit report was tabled at last month's meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Tabb to accept the 2014 Audit as presented. A motion was seconded by Mr. Terry and carried unanimously.

Mr. Allain reported on the Industrial Park - Mr. Allain stated that there are two companies interested in locating at the Industrial Park and that both companies are in the Oilfield Industry. He reported that he has been in the process of securing information to provide them with lease rates and has contacted a realtor to obtain rates that are comparable to this area. The results of his research recommend a rate of approximately \$4,800 per acre for water front and \$1,500 per acre for non-waterfront. These rates are similar to rates for leasing property at the Port site. Mr. Allain said he will convey these rates to the potential customers and see if they are still interested - discussion followed.

Mr. Allain presented the Commission with a photograph of the sign he is proposing to be erected at the Industrial Park. He reported that Cleco will assist the Port Commission by supplying the poles for the sign. The cost to place the poles and to have proper lighting installed will be \$9,500 and Mr. Allain has secured a company to perform this task. The sign will consist of 4 sheets of aluminum and can be manufactured at a cost of \$1,980.00. The total cost for the sign and installation with lighting will be \$11,480 and the Port will own the sign - discussion followed. A motion was made by Mr. Blevins to give authorization to Mr. Allain to have the sign manufactured and installed as presented for the Industrial Park. A motion was seconded by Mr. Paul and carried unanimously.

Mr. Allain reported on the sign in the front of the Port of West St. Mary administrative office. The sign is the original sign of the office, is over 30 years old and is in disrepair. Mr. Allain recommended that the Commission replace the sign and has contacted Bayou Signs of Houma for a quote to construct a sandblasted sign to replace the existing sign. The existing lights are in working order and do not need to be replaced. The cost to replace this sign would be \$3,385.00 - discussion followed. A motion was made by Mr. Blevins to authorize Mr. Allain to have the Port office sign constructed and installed. A motion seconded by Mr. Terry and carried unanimously.

Mr. Allain reported on a company interested in locating at the Port and is requesting to remain anonymous at this time. Mr. Allain has been working with Mr. Duplantis on the proposed location of the company at the Port site. Mr. Duplantis explained that he and Mr. Allain have done a lot of work on getting this done. Mr. Allain said he hopes that something will be done within the next month - discussion followed.

Attorney's report, Mr. Duplantis stated that he had nothing further to report.

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was made by Mr. Paul to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tabb and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Signed


Wayne Stevens, Secretary